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NOV 29 1949

MEMORANDUM TO: Assistant Director for Special Operations

SUBJECT: Communications Facilities for Covert Operations

REFERENCE: Memo of 23 Nov. 1949 from EXO/OSO to EXO/OPC on  
overseas T/O for Communications Division

1. During the past fifteen months OPC has been placing an increasingly heavy burden upon the Communications Division of OSO. I wish to express appreciation for the services and facilities that have been provided as well as the cooperation and assistance we have received in planning our operations.

2. OPC activities not only demand extensive communications services in normal times but require operational facilities to handle emergency situations in any quarter of the world. This is particularly important since the Departments of State and Defense are relying upon OPC to perform certain emergency functions in the event of outbreak of hostilities. To prepare for these requirements OPC, with the help of the Communications Division, placed contracts for approximately [redacted] worth of equipment during Fiscal 1949 and set about recruiting a substantial number of communications personnel. As this program progressed it became increasingly obvious that it would be necessary for reasons of technical efficiency and operational security to maintain the highest degree of coordination between the communications activities and operations of OSO and OPC.

3. The current activities and future plans reflected in reference memorandum provide further proof of the desirability of effecting this coordination as soon as possible. In developing these plans OPC representatives explained that the communications requirements were so essential that the implementation of these plans should only be limited by our ability to recruit and train the staff and build the bases. If this requires a [redacted] more than has been allocated to the Communications Division, it is essential that these funds be provided even though it may mean a limitation of substantive activities that were contemplated when the budget estimates were submitted. For that reason, OPC is willing to withdraw such funds as may be necessary from other activities and, with the permission of the Director, earmark them for communications use.

4. In the third paragraph of reference memorandum it was requested that this Office confirm that the consolidated T/O will fulfill the needs of OPC for the balance of the present fiscal year. It is impossible to make such a statement because at best this T/O is merely a plan on the drawing board and does not provide facilities in being. We are, however,

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willing to certify that such a T/O does not exceed our requirements and recommend that the plan be implemented as soon as possible.

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5. In the third paragraph reference memorandum also pointed out that details of financial support [redacted] for this program will be worked out as soon as possible. In view of the complexity of the problem, it is essential that an equitable agreement be reached between the two Offices with regard to appropriate authority and responsibility for establishing, maintaining, controlling and sharing communications facilities. This problem has received extensive consideration from various members of my staff and we shall be in a position to present a proposal for your consideration in the next few days. In recognition of the urgency of this matter, however, I suggest that we proceed without delay to implement the plan set forth in reference memorandum, including the allocation of funds from OPC, subject to the understanding that a mutually satisfactory solution will be arrived at with respect to the other problem above referred to in the very near future.

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[redacted]  
Assistant Director for  
Policy Coordination

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